

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Powills, Michael A.
[Chicago, IL]

1933-1937

6406 S. Whipple Street,
Chicago, Illinois,
February 15, 1933.

Howland Wood, Esq.,
c/o American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York,
New York.

My dear Mr. Wood.

It has been my sincere desire to communicate with you this past year, but the many pressing issues, one of which in reality was to find a means for daily existence, necessitated laying aside in part numismatics, and so too dropping my associate membership to the American Numismatic Society, a privilege which I greatly cherished. But then it is those issues summed up under that one big heading, DEPRESSION, that make life worth while--so enough of that.

In the compilation of a bibliography on Chinese numismatics (one of two bibliographies in preparation) it has been my privilege to view in more than one periodical or journal the frequent mention of one Howland Wood, associated with some articles on Oriental numismatics, that I accordingly feel that to have read his articles was an incentive to know the author personally, and I hope that opportunity is not far off.

I have to date ^{ever} derived from the more outstanding numismatic periodicals or journals, and to no small measure from such publications as the Royal Asiatic Society - China Branch, China Journal, etc., abundance of titles on Chinese numismatics; however this is a means of knowing that there is a pronounced lacking in volumes issued as a whole on the subject in question, which brings me to the question, Do you or the A.N.S. library possess such a list?

There are enclosed herewith questionnaires, or as might be construed my "work sheets", which are being used for both bibliographies.

Your comments and suggestions on the questionnaires as well as the discussed Chinese work shall be most graciously appreciated.

There is pending a reply from Dr. Hung, I believe formerly professor of Oriental languages at Harvard, now at the Yenshing University, Peiping, China, the consideration of his taking over the reviews published in Chinese.

There comes to my attention a reprint of one of your articles, appearing in The Numismatist, vol. XVII, 1904, pp. 142-4, "hat money"

of Pahang. Is it possible a copy of same may be had or any other of your articles appearing as reprints?

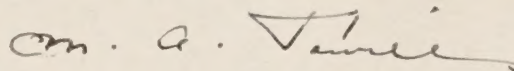
I have at intervals endeavored to procure Ramsden's works, such as "Siamese Porcelain and Other Tokens", Modern Chinese Copper Coins, reprinted from The Numismatist of 1910-11, and others of his works on China, but have completely failed. Could you advise me as to the above?

There came into my possession a number of copies of "Certain Old Chinese Notes" by Andrew McFarland Davis, as a reprint of a communication presented to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1915, limited to 250 copies, beautifully bound and sold recently at \$3.00. If you are at all interested, a copy is yours for the asking.

Your kind indulgence in the execution of the enclosed questionnaires relative to your works, shall be appreciated.

Awaiting your kind reply, I am

Sincerely yours,



M. A. Powills.

P.S.: For your further information please be advised that I am a member of the American Numismatic Association, former Librarian and Curator of the Chicago Coin Club and Secretary and Treasurer.

Convey my best regards to Mr. Wormser and Mr. Zerbe.

1. Title of book _____
2. Full name of author _____
3. Date of publication (as disclosed in book) _____
4. Publisher's name _____
5. Publisher's address _____
6. Number of books published _____
7. Number of revised editions and amount published
in each case, if any _____

8. Price _____
9. Present rarity, if any _____
10. Size of book, style of binding or bindings, as
the case may be, etc. _____

11. Author's position as the authority (brief) _____

12. Review (attach any reviews, advertisements,
illustrations as are available.) _____

13. Suggestions: _____

March 18, 1933.

Mr. M. A. Powills
6406 S. Whipple Street
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Powills:

Please excuse me for not replying to your long letter of sometime ago. The fact is I have been so engrossed in finishing up an article that I have given little time to anything else. Also I have been cleaning up my affairs as I will be away for a number of weeks.

The work you are doing is certainly to be commended and and I trust later on I will be able to help you. We have a very large library here of Chinese books that belonged to the late Mr. John Reilly. However, nothing has been done on these; they have never been catalogued and I don't know when they will be. They consist of books in Chinese and Japanese as well as English, German, French, etc. on Chinese subjects.

There never was any reprint on my "Hait Money" of Pahang. I simply at the time had a few extra copies of the Numismatist and I do not find any of these today. I do not find any duplicates of the Siamese porcelain or the modern Chinese copper coins. This latter was reprinted. George L. Tilden, Box 13, Northboro, Mass. may have a copy. We have Davis' book on Chinese Notes. I knew him at the time he wrote this and saw the notes. To my mind they were all reprints or fakes. At the time he got his there were a number of these being hawked about China. All were claimed to have been modern.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

7124 Clyde Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

January 16, 1934

George L. Tilden, Esq.,
Box 13,
Northboro, Mass.

Dear Mr. Tilden:

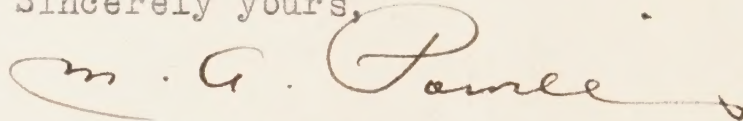
In the compilation of a bibliography on Chinese Numismatics, recent information has come to my attention which would indicate that, with the completion of a series of articles, "Modern Chinese Copper Coins", by H. A. Ramsden, appearing in the May 1911 issue of The Numismatist, same was shortly thereafter published by you as a reprint, with certain minor corrections.

Your kind consideration in the execution of the enclosed questionnaire, or as might be construed, my "work sheet", is respectfully requested.

Is it possible that you may have a copy of the above mentioned publication for sale?

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



M. A. Powills

*Mr. Howland Wood
N.Y. City*

*Friend Howland:-
Will you reply to this.*

*and oblige
Yours Respt.*

G. L. Tilden

*Northboro Mass
Feb. 7-1934*

1. Title of book

2. Full name of author

3. Date of publication (as disclosed in book)

4. Publisher's name

5. Publisher's address

6. Number of books published

7. Number of revised editions and amount published
in each case, if any

8. Price

9. Present rarity, if any

10. Size of book, style of binding or bindings, as
the case may be, etc.

11. Author's position as the authority (brief)

12. Review (attach any reviews, advertisements,
illustrations as are available.)

13. Suggestions:

2135 East 70th Street,
Chicago, Illinois.
March 15, 1937

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York, New York.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Some three years or so ago it was my privilege to entertain Colonel, The Raja J. P. Bahadur Singh of Bajang (Nepal), and as a token of appreciation of the hospitality shown, amongst the mementos bestowed upon me were a number of coins. These I have endeavored to classify, but unfortunately the effort has been a miserable failure.

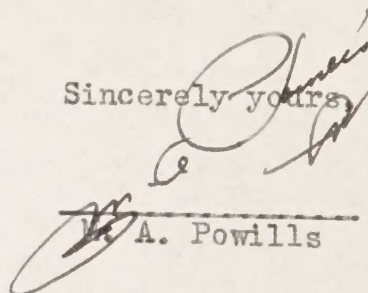
Your kind indulgence in identifying these as to denomination, date of issuance, and the translation of characters, of which there are ten in number, also three pieces of Travancore, and a specimen of Meywar and Madras, if this imposition will not impair or necessitate any inconvenience with your daily routine, shall be gratefully appreciated. The writer is holding in abeyance the coins pending your expression.

Will you be good enough to enclose an application for reinstatement to the Society.

Enclosed herewith please find two Franklin Delano Roosevelt items and C. D. Peacock's 100 Anniversary medalet, which I pass along with my compliments for your personal collection.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,


M. A. Powells

MAP/P

March 20, 1937

Mr. M. A. Powills,
2135 E. 70th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Powills:

Your favor at hand and many thanks for the three little tokens that you sent. If you will delay sending on the Indian coins for about a month I would appreciate it. I then think I can have some time to attribute them for you, the reason being that my assistant passed away a short time ago and beginning on Monday, I will be breaking in a new man and I can see that I will be more than busy for a few weeks.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

2135 East 70th Street,
Chicago, Illinois.
May 10, 1937

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th & 156th Street,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

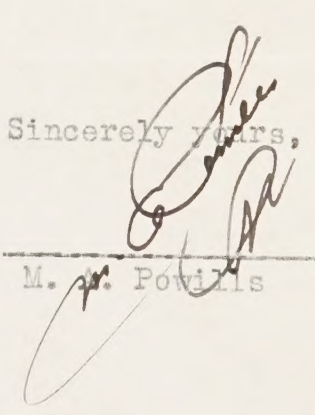
Your kind letter of March 20, 1937, was of course duly received, but conscious of the additional responsibility imposed upon you - in breaking in a new assistant - which under any circumstances is a trying task, I have purposely belated this acknowledgement.

I am fully appreciative to your kind and generous offer toward the classifying of the coins mentioned in my previous letter. With your permission I will mail them on for your identification.

In my letter of March 15, 1937, I likewise requested an application for re-instatement to the Society, but no doubt you inadvertently overlooked this. Will you be good enough to refer this matter to Mr. Sydney P. Noe.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



M. W. Powells

MAP/P

May 17, 1937

Mr. M. A. Powills,
2135 East 70th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Powills:

Your favor of May 10th at hand. I put off answering your letter as I was thinking you were sending on the coins, but ~~a~~re-reading it I see you were holding off sending the coins for attribution until you heard from me. You can send them on any time and we will do our best to get at them.

I spoke to Mr. Noe about your re-instatement the other day and I understand he has written you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

2135 East 70th Street,
Chicago, Illinois.
June 3, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York, New York.

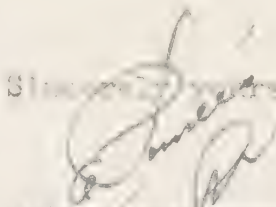
Dear Mr. Wood:

Receipt is acknowledged of your kind letter of May 17, 1937, relative to the attribution of ten Nepal, three Travancore and a Meywar and Madras coins, which I am sending under separate cover.

I have possibly been, in outward appearance somewhat tardy, in answering your letter, but as I made mention in a letter to Mr. Sydney P. Noe, the unusual office grind and a week end out of town, with the family, has of necessity forced me to waylay the numismatic correspondence.

I find myself studdering for adequate words in expressing my appreciation for your generous allotment of time - and I do hope the opportunity - possibly late this fall, when I will undoubtedly make a trip to New York, will permit me to reciprocate, in part for your kind efforts. Any expense incurred shall, of course, be re-imbursed.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

M. A. Ewille

MAP/P

June 10, 1937

Mr. M. A. Powills,
2135 East 70th Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Powills:

Your letter, together with the package of coins
at hand. I will get at these in a few days and again
write you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

August 4, 1937

Mr. M. A. Powills,
2135 East 70th Street,
Chicggo, Ill.

Dear Mr. Powills:

I have at last gotten around to fixing up your coins. I have attributed these to the best of my ability and I think they will answer your purpose.

These I am sending you under separate cover. The regular charge wou d be at 10¢ each, or \$1.50.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

2135 East 70th Street,
Chicago, Illinois.
November 2, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

This belated acknowledgment of your letter of August 4, 1937, and under separate cover the attributed coins, which were also duly received, no doubt, has all the "ear marks" of negligence. But in view of the ensuing circumstances I have of necessity, rather than deliberate intent, been compelled to forego much of my correspondence.

The anticipated visit to the Society's Museum, with the adjournment of the A N A Convention at Washington, as Mrs. Powills, the son and heir and I embarked on our ambitious itinerary of the East, was to realize the fervent wish of these recent years.

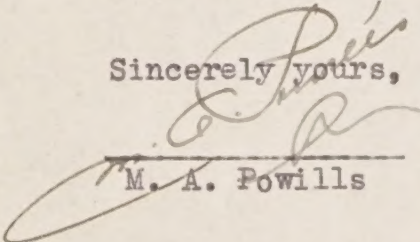
However, these carefully laid plans were only to allot me a casual late afternoon glimpse of New York City, as I hurriedly started back for Chicago. Mrs. Powills and the son had left some two days earlier from Philadelphia in response to a telegram that her sister had inadvertently taken bichloride of mercury for aspirin. While the condition was recognized as being serious, death was the farthest thought in our minds.

Unpleasant though the thought may seem at times, these are the brutal facts that at some time or another is our lot to face. A lingering death of two weeks certainly did not make the issue any more pleasant.

Fully cognizant of the many responsibilities that are imposed upon you, I cannot conclude this letter without reiterating my deepest appreciation for your assistance in the classifying of the coins. I am enclosing herewith the remittance of \$1.50.

With kindest wishes,

Sincerely yours,


M. A. Powills

MAP/p

November 5, 1937

Mr. M. A. Powills,
2135 E. 70th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Powills:

This is to acknowledge your favor of Nov. 2nd enclosing \$1.50. Naturally I was sorry that you could not get up here and trust the next time you come to New York you will pay us a visit.

Sincerely yours,

Curator

HW s